

# FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Present: Cllr C Stanton (Chair), Cllr C Jopling (Vice-Chair); Cllr D Pittard, Cllr J Pittard.  
3 members of the public

**3384** Appointment of a Chair of the Council for the Year 2021-22. Cllr Jopling was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Stanton and J Pickard. Vote: unanimous.

**3385** Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Jopling signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to become the Chairman for 2021-22.

**3386** Appointment of a Vice-Chair. Cllr Stanton was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Jopling and D Pickard. Vote: unanimous.

**3387** To Agree any Nominations for the Following Appointments:

- a. Chair of South Yorkshire Branch of the YLCA. No nominations.
- b. Vice-Chair of South Yorkshire Branch of the YLCA. No nominations.
- c. Representative on the YLCA Joint Executive Board. No nominations.
- d. Representative on RMBC's Local Councils Joint Working Group. No nominations.

**3388** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil.

**3389** Declarations of Interest. Nil.

**3390** Public Discussion Period.

- a. Village Hall Grants. Members were advised that the £1k grant awarded to the Village Hall in 2021-21 had contributed towards the purchase of a new shed, the project for which was in progress and would cost c.£1.7k in total. Members were also advised that the £1k grant awarded in this year's budget was not required at this time.
- b. Three Acres/Limestone Cottage. Concerns were raised over possible unauthorised/unregulated activity, child safeguarding and the overall state of the site, along with numerous concerns with a planning application for Three Acres. The concerns regarding activities/safeguarding had been reported to RMBC, who had a 13-week target to address the matters raised from early March.

**3391** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

- a. 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

**3392** Matters Arising from the Minutes. Nil

**3393** Finance:

- a. To Approve a Donation for the Firbeck Treasure Hunt. Members retrospectively approved a donation of £37.71 towards the Treasure Hunt.
- b. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.

- c. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. **Resolved:** that the budget monitoring report be approved.
- d. To Approve Accounts for Payment. **Resolved:** that the monthly accounts covering the period since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- e. To Approve the Annual Accounts for 2020-21 and Annual Return Sections 1&2. **Resolved:** that the annual accounts be approved.  
**Resolved:** that Section 1 of the annual return, the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.  
**Resolved:** that Section 2 of the annual return, the Annual Accounting Statements, be approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk
- f. To Receive a Report from the Internal Auditor. Members received the report from the internal auditor – no issues were raised.
- g. To Agree Exemption from External Audit. **Resolved:** that the council, due to its level of turnover, qualified to be exempt from external audit.
- h. To Agree the Council's Insurance Renewal. The renewal quote from Zurich Municipal Insurance was received that was identical to last year's premium.  
**Resolved:** to change renew insurance with Zurich Municipal.
- i. To Adopt the General Power of Competence. **Resolved:** to adopt the General Power of Competence as the council satisfied the qualifying criteria.

#### 3394 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Highways and Verges. It was felt additional work was required on the Kidd Lane verge as the grass cutters were not doing a sufficient job; in addition, the verge heading out of the village from Firbeck Hall had been damaged. The Clerk was to try and establish what level RMBC are supposed to maintain the area to, to be able to compare against what was being seen. An idea to try and permanently brighten the area was to possibly create a pond – Cllr Jopling to undertake research on this idea.  
An idea to protect the rowan tree from strimmers was also discussed and, again, further research was required.
- b. Telephone Box Maintenance. Most outside areas had now been completed; the inside areas would be looked at once the outside had been finished.
- c. Footpath/Bridlepath Maintenance. The ongoing issues with Salt Hill and Flat Lane had seen no significant progress since the last meeting.
- d. Public Use of Non-Dedicated Footpaths. Nothing significant to report.
- e. Emergency Plan. Vice-Chair to complete one outstanding action before completion.

#### 3395 Correspondence – Nil

#### 3396 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
  - i. RB2021/0868 – Change of use to children's care home (use class C2) – Three Acres, Lamb Lane, Firbeck  
  
Comments: Numerous issues were raised, to be passed to RMBC, with the application, including inaccuracies with the ownership, description and plans, the suitability/safety for children, the state of the surrounding land, health concerns regarding refuse on site and inaccurate comments regarding public transport and local amenities.

- ii. RB2021/0871 – Erection of single storey orangery extension to rear - Pear Tree House, Lime Avenue, Firbeck

Comments: Nil.

#### ADDITIONAL LATE RECEIVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- iii. RB2021/0964 – Extension of existing cart shed to create ancillary garages and resurfacing and extension of existing access track – Stone Farm, Kingswood Lane, Firbeck.

Comments: Nil.

- iv. RB2021/0968 – Application to undertake works to a tree(s) protected by RMBC TPO No.5 1977 – 24 New Road, Firbeck

Comments: No details of the application were available on the RMBC Planning Portal, only photos of the tree. Work had previously been refused but had nevertheless been undertaken by the owners, a possible criminal offence. RMBC were to be contacted to prevent any further work and to establish why the application had been accepted and published like it had been, and to establish what action they may take against the owners and contractors.

- v. RB2021/0973 – Erection of storage building – Stone Farm, Kingswood Lane, Firbeck.

Comments: Nil.

- vi. RB2021/0977 – Creation of wildlife pond - Stone Farm, Kingswood Lane, Firbeck.

Comments: Nil.

- vii. RB2021/0982 – Demolition of the existing steel portal framed barn and the erection of a building to house swimming pool and gym - Stone Farm, Kingswood Lane, Firbeck.

Comments: Nil.

#### b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting:

- i. RB2020/1465 – Listed Building Consent for installation of ground source heating system at Firbeck Hall, New Road, Firbeck – granted conditionally
- ii. RB2021/0549 – Application to undertake works to a tree(s) protected by TPO No. (No.5) 1977 at 24 New Road, Firbeck – refused

**3397** Neighbourhood Plan – Update. Initial meeting with the Planning Advisor to take place as soon as possible. Members were to gather ideas prior to the initial meeting.

**3398** Village Speed Signs - Update. The sign at the end of St Martin's was a temporary installation; it was still desired to have three permanent signs on the entrance roads to the village.

- 3399** 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Draft flyers had been produced and would be distributed once final comments had been received.
- 3400** To Discuss and Agree Councillor Roles and Responsibilities. Deferred to next meeting
- 3401** Village Drainage/Sewerage Issues. Nothing significant to report – RMBC would be continued to be chased re Salt Hill.
- 3402** To Discuss the Casual Vacancy. The vacancy that had arisen following the election had been advertised with a deadline of 18<sup>th</sup> June in the hope a new member can be elected at the next meeting.
- 3403** To Discuss the new Code of Conduct. A new national Code for Conduct for members had been produced but advice was not to adopt until members had had the opportunity to receive training, which had so far yet to be advertised.
- 3404** To Confirm the Date for the Annual Parish Meeting. The annual parish meeting had been postponed from April until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to allow the meeting to take place in public.
- 3405** To Identify Key Issues and Priorities for the Parish for the Ward Plan. No comments raised.
- 3406** To Discuss a Derelict Land Issue Within the Parish. Covered elsewhere in the meeting.
- 3407** Items For Future Agenda.

Neighbourhood Watch

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The next meeting of the parish council would be held at 7pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Signed:.....

Date:.....